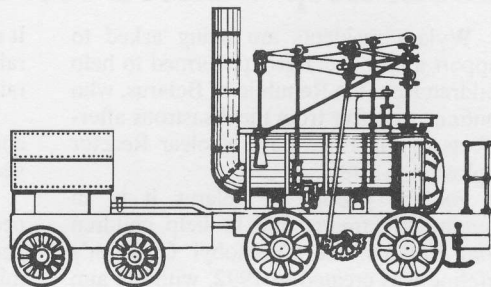


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



December 1997

Season's Greetings to all our readers

Number 62

“New look” Institute is set to reopen soon

Good progress has been made by building contractors Stephen Easten Ltd., on the Institute's major new extension and improvement scheme. The first event to mark the reopening will be a Wine and Cheese Party to be held on Friday evening, 9th January.

On the next day, Saturday, 10th January, the Women's Institute will be serving a soup-lunch from 12 noon. A special pre-Christmas draw and other attractions will be held. The Institute Committee are hoping that this will be sponsored by Barclays Bank and that all funds raised will go towards the Improvement Scheme.

On Saturday 10th evening, the Amateur Dramatic Society will be offering special festive entertainment in what should be a most enjoyable social evening. This will be the first event to take advantage of the upstairs rooms in the new extension as a licensed bar area.

The Institute Committee hope that as many village residents as possible will support these events, taking the opportunity to see the improvements and help the Institute complete its fundraising, so that some elements of decoration and refurbishment which had to be delayed, can be fully completed.

Now that the Institute is available for use again, with its greatly improved facilities and attractive decor and furnishings, all groups who used the premises previously are being invited to return. The Institute officials will also be very pleased to discuss future hire arrangements with any new or existing organisations in Wylam or from the surrounding area.

There will not be a better opportunity for groups and organisations involved in social, recreational, educational and leisure activities to relocate to the Institute and take advantage of space for the storage of equipment and use the facilities for other special needs. All groups are recommended to review their long-term needs, since it could be very difficult in future to change the arrangements made by the Institute with its user groups in coming months.

The Institute office is due to reopen on Monday, 5th January. Office hours will be 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Telephone queries to 853619 or 852575.

The Parish Council, on behalf of the village, would like to record its appreciation to every individual and organisation who has contributed money, time or effort, to assist the Institute Committee in achieving such a splendid improvement scheme.

Hopefully with its fine new facilities, the Institute will be well placed to serve as the Community Centre for the village, far into the 21st century.



Construction of the Institute extension was well advanced when this picture was taken. An improved kitchen and toilets have been provided on the ground floor, with extra medium-sized meeting rooms above; a lift has been installed to make it much easier - particularly for the elderly - to get to the upstairs rooms. Much of the building is being refurbished.

Widespread local opposition to landowners bids for housing on Green Belt fields

Thank you to everyone who wrote to Tynedale Council Planning Department in September, about the proposals by agents for local landowners/developers that agricultural land on the edge of the village off Blue Bell Lane and Holeyn Hall Road, should be taken out of the Green Belt to allow many more houses to be built.

After the press publicity and the circular which the Parish Council distributed, more than 400 letters and a large petition were sent to the District Planning Department, about the Wylam proposals, many more objections than from any other community in Tynedale.

The very strong opposition expressed by local residents, by the Parish Council and by all those interested in the future of the village, will now help to back the stance taken by Tynedale Council in their Deposit Draft District Plan to control pressures for housing development.

The letters from local residents will be submitted as part of Tynedale Council's evidence to the Public Inquiry into the Draft Local Plan which is likely to be held in June, 1998.

The Parish Council will try to ensure that residents are kept informed on this very important issue of local concern.

Local help wanted for Chernobyl children

Wylam residents are being asked to support a new local group, formed to help children from the Republic of Belarus, who continue to suffer from the disastrous after-effects of the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor explosion in 1986.

For the people of Belarus it is an ongoing nightmare, and to help children from Belarus, the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline was created in 1992, with the aim of giving the children a month's holiday in fresh, clean air, away from the constant stress of life at home.

There are now 60 "Link-groups" throughout the U.K. and the newly-formed Tyne Valley link is planning to invite a group of children to this area in July 1998.

It costs £250 to bring one child here; fundraising has already started, and help in raising money would be much appreciated.

Other ways of helping will include collecting good quality clothing for 8-13 year olds, and toiletries and vitamins.

When the children are here, help will be needed in arranging activities for them, or perhaps taking them for tea. Spare "air miles" will also be needed for their flights from London to Newcastle.

We hope that local residents will be willing to help with this very worthwhile project. For further general information and offers of help, please contact Glen Smith (Tel: 853997) or Andrew McKegney (853596) who are co-ordinating the fundraising.



Children from Wylam School proudly holding the banner they had painted, waiting for County Council Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Lynn Camsell, to officially reopen Hagg Bank bridge, which she did by cycling through the outstretched banner.

Need for action to tackle weed problem

Complaints have been made this year about the growth of weeds on the edges of footpaths and in road gullies around the village. Unfortunately the new "environmentally friendly" weedkillers which local authorities are now obliged to use, are less effective at killing the weeds, and it is therefore necessary to spray them more often - which makes the job more expensive.

Budget cuts, and other priorities in the County Council Highways Department, have meant that the problem of weed control has been neglected. Similar constraints with the District Council, mean that the task is not being tackled effectively by either authority.

Since it is likely that both the County and District Council will have worse budget problems next year, the Parish Council, like others around the country, is now investigating what action might be taken locally to tackle the weeds.

Cuts for street lamps - in the dark longer

Because of unexpected emergency expenditure needed to replace corroded lighting columns, and tight budget restrictions, the County Council has said that it will not be able to replace all street lamps when they fail during the winter. Priority will be given to those that are considered to be the most important for safety. Please continue to report faulty lamps on Freephone 0800 616792

New Information Card

A new edition (the 12th) of the Village Information Card is being delivered to all houses in Wylam with this newsletter. It replaces the previous edition (on Green Card) which should be destroyed. The Information Card is revised every two years and has always been much appreciated by residents - we hope that this new edition will be as useful as its predecessors!

Spare plants for School

Wylam School is currently making great efforts to improve its rather barren grounds with the aim of creating a more attractive and sheltered environment of greater educational value for the children. There are plans for a wild area and butterfly beds, with shrubs and flowers.

If any keen gardeners or naturalists in the village have plants of any sort to spare, or indeed expertise to offer, this would be most welcome.

Please contact Dorothy McSorley, Headteacher at the school. Tel: 852771.

Elegant bridge reopens

After experiencing criticism from local residents about the arrangements for the temporary closure of Hagg Bank bridge for refurbishment, the County Council made special efforts to organise an impressive reopening by the Chairman of the County Council on 17th October, and involving children from Wylam First School.

The elegant and subtle colour scheme chosen for the repainted bridge matches as closely as possible the original colours used when the bridge was built in 1876.

Attractive interpretive panels are being erected at the bridge and in the car park, with a new display in the Country Park Centre at Low Prudhoe.

Much of the £224,000 cost of the repairs and renovation work, has come from the Heritage Lottery Board.

In brief

Does anyone in Wylam want to help plan a "special project or event" to celebrate the new Millennium in two years time?

If you have any ideas on what you would like to see done locally - please contact any of the Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk, as soon as possible.

Several Wylam couples have celebrated their Golden Wedding this year, and Laurence and Edna Mew of Stephenson Court were one of the 18 lucky couples from Northumberland invited to the special Royal Golden Wedding Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 15th July.

To commemorate the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Youth Club will be planting a white rose in the village. A nice idea. The rose will probably be planted in either the Institute garden or in the grounds of St. Oswin's Parish Church.

Congratulations to the owners/tenants of the public houses and shops in the village who displayed very attractive hanging baskets and window boxes on their premises this year. Your efforts to help make the village more attractive have been much appreciated.

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to

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